



# IDAHO

## KIDS IN ACTION



VOLUME 2, ISSUE 2

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### Note from the Director

**Reflecting on Reflection** — Reflection, as you probably know, is just as integral for educators as it is for students. Reflection is the process of thinking, writing and speaking about our experiences and making meaning of them. Reflection occurs naturally for all human beings and is the key to learning new things. Different stakeholders participate in reflection, and it serves two main purposes in service-learning:

1. To support student learning by fostering the connection between the service and the curriculum. When students apply the curricular knowledge they gain, it is learned more effectively when they have the time to think, talk and write about what happened.
2. To evaluate how effective the service is and to make decisions about what might be done differently.

Reflection should be ongoing throughout the service-learning experience. Effective reflection helps ensure a powerful service-learning experience where students gain new knowledge, think critically and together solve problems.

Check out the “Student Corner” for this month’s highlights of student reflections from Wendell Middle School.

### Wendell Middle School, Wendell, ID Community Safety Presentation

Wendell Middle School’s Youth Advisory Council meets throughout the year. They did a community needs assessment to identify needs in their school and community. Members of the group felt that bullying and teasing were becoming an issue at their school, and decided to do something about it.

They wanted to help build a united community at our school to ensure that all students felt safe and cared about. They also decided to take it a step further and help younger children at the elementary school learn positive ways to handle bullying, teasing, and peer pressure. By educating students in the younger grades, they hoped their presentation would help prevent bullying in future years.

Members of the Youth Advisory Council surveyed their peers about their experiences with teasing, bullying, and peer pressure. They recorded the results in a

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Wendell Middle School Youth Advisory Council

## LAPWAI ELEMENTARY

### Wildcat Peacekeepers

**Watch out !** Here come the Wildcat Peacekeepers! All bullies take notice. The Peacekeepers are trained in conflict resolution and strategies to keep peace at Lapwai Elementary. Serving as peer mentors, the Peacekeepers perform demonstrations in classrooms, at assemblies, at parent nights and community functions. During basketball games, they are out there on the court at halftime either doing a presentation or just showing respect by sweeping the floors. Tribal Elders have been teaching students a curriculum in the Nez Perce language revolving around respect. These demonstrations include plays and skits the students write themselves about the effect of bullying, and how to handle it if you are bullied. Since October when this project was initiated, disciplinary incidents in bullying have decreased at Lapwai.

Lapwai Peacekeepers participated in a contest to design a t-shirt that best exemplified what Peacekeepers stood for. In the photo, see the great winning design by Mykel Johnson, which was selected by the students. The Peacekeepers proudly wear the t-shirts at various functions.

For Random Acts of Kindness Week, the Peacekeepers made an “It’s Cool to be Kind” display for the hallways with inspirational quotes and student excerpts of a time when they’ve shown an act of kindness. They also picked up garbage around the school, community, and city park. To show appreciation for school staff members thank you cards were made and delivered.

Shawna Leighton, Lapwai School District’s Community Resource and Social Worker, has been doing a great job working with the Peacekeeper group, and is looking forward to taking 2 students to Minneapolis in April to participate in the National Service Learning Conference.



**Lapwai Wildcat Peacekeepers**

## Wendell Middle School

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graph and realized that most students had some experience with bullying whether it was as a participant, a victim, or a bystander. The Youth Advisory Council applied the information from the survey to plan an assembly at our elementary school for third and fourth graders, and at our middle school for fifth and sixth graders.

Each assembly included a Power Point presentation that addressed the needs of our school and future students. The presentation looked at what bullying is, why people bully, who is involved, and what everyone can do to prevent bullying. Members also performed a skit using *Feathers and Fools* by Mem Fox, which shows how two flocks of birds judge and fear each other based on their differences. Eventually, they destroy each other. Soon after an egg from each flock hatches, and the young birds notice their similarities and decide to be friends.

After the skit, our principal led a book discussion, which helped students interpret the message of the story and apply it to their own lives. Everyone took the anti bully pledge together, and each student was given a bookmark *Taking the Bully by the Horns*. It had the bullying promise, a list of things they could do if they were being bullied, and a poem called HELP!!!. The poem told about a girl's experience with bullying at school.

Students went back to their classrooms to reflect on the presentation. The assembly left an impression on the students and great discussions took place in the classrooms. One of the most powerful lessons learned from the presentation was the role of the bystander in bullying. Many students didn't realize that simply by watching the bullying, they were part of the problem. They made a commitment to stand up for each other and/or seek help from an adult if they became involved with bullying.

Wendell Middle School is extremely proud of our Youth Advisory Council. They are wonderful leaders in our school and community. Through their efforts we have learned to work with each other and members of our community to make a difference.

Dani Bonawitz

### KIDS IN ACTION

Our newsletter name is the brainstorm of Dani Bonawitz, Service Learning Coordinator of Wendell Middle School. Isn't it great! Dani has a B.A. in elementary education from ISU, and over 13 years experience working with community service and youth.

### Important Dates to Remember

**January 15, 2008 - First Progress Report Due**

**February 15, 2008—Request for Proposals Released for 2008—2009**

**February 27-29, 2008 - Serve Idaho Conference - Post Falls, ID.**

**March 15, 2008—RFP Application Closing Dates**

**April 9-12, 2008—19th Annual National Service-Learning Conference—Minneapolis, MN.**

**April 15, 2008—Notification of Grant Awards**



Wendell YAC with "beaks" as part of their skit





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**Learn and Serve Idaho** provides young people with opportunities to serve Idaho by connecting community service with academic learning, personal growth, and civic responsibility. Grantees create new service learning programs, replicate existing models, and train staff, faculty, adult volunteers, and students in service learning. Participants are K-12, school-age youth.

Eligible applicants for Learn & Serve grants are Idaho K-12 schools of any grade span. Grantee schools must be committed to service learning as a teaching/learning strategy and as an integral component of education.

The vision of Learn and Serve Idaho is to assist schools in implementing site-based programs of service learning through policy, practice, and capacity building. Learn and Serve Idaho provides financial and technical assistance to schools as they develop and implement policies and supportive structures at all levels, while reducing barriers to the institutionalization of service learning.

## Student's Corner

### Student Reflections

These reflections were written after Wendell Middle School students put together personal care packages (cans) & made blankets supporting a service learning project with a hunger and homelessness theme.

"When the Salvation Army came they talked about how we made a little kid's day. They thanked us and then we went outside and set the cans on the sidewalk so they could load them into the truck. The Salvation Army cried. I felt so good and happy knowing that I helped children who were in need. I could imagine the little children's faces when they received the cans full of soaps, combs, and lotions ....I felt happy and great. I don't think I will ever forget that day or the feeling I had"

**Madi Kelsey**

"How Did I Feel?"

I felt happy in helping the homeless. I did not think of myself. I

like helping others. My emotions are very easy to show. ... I am happy to say I won't hesitate to help. I thank you for taking my gifts to them. I hope they enjoy them!"

**Chris Hoshaw-Hoss**

"After making all of those blankets it really makes a difference. Something that is in me reminds me all the time that if I help people then it really makes the hugest difference even if it's helping one or ten families. It seriously does help and it feels really good."

**Keila Cordero**

"When I made the cans I made it for people that didn't have homes...I was so happy when I made them. I knew when they got the kits they would have all they needed. I felt so good, when they get the kits they will be happy that someone cared about them. The poor kids will be happy too. I am glad that I am helping people. It makes a great feeling inside you."

**Ana Benitez**

### IDAHO

#### LEARN AND SERVE SUB- GRANT PROGRAM

#### CURRENT SUBGRANTEES

#### 2007-2008

- ◇ **The Alameda Center**— Pocatello, ID
- ◇ **ANSER Charter School**- Boise, ID
- ◇ **Burton Elementary**- Rexburg, ID
- ◇ **Highlands Elementary**- Boise, ID
- ◇ **Lakeland High School**- Rathdrum, ID
- ◇ **Lapwai Elementary**- Lapwai, ID
- ◇ **Middleton High School**-Middleton, ID
- ◇ **Mullan Trail Elementary**-  
Post Falls, ID
- ◇ **Orofino Jr. & Sr. High School**-  
Orofino, ID
- ◇ **Parma Learning Center**- Parma, ID
- ◇ **Sorensen Magnet School of the  
Arts & Humanities**—Coeur d'Alene,  
ID
- ◇ **Wendell Middle School**- Wendell, ID